



Reed bolsters Ormesby's British League title bid

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The first fixtures of the revamped Senior British League season see six clubs ready to do battle this weekend.

The Premier Division moves to a home-and-away format for 2016/17, with seven clubs from England, Wales and Scotland meeting over 14 match dates.

The first set of matches will be taking place in Glasgow, Cardiff and Middlesbrough, with home support potentially playing a key role in the outcomes.

With defending champions Sycamore opting not to play at the top level this season, Ormesby will have their eyes on regaining the title they won two years ago.

And they have strengthened their ranks with the signing of Danny Reed, part of the England team which won silver at the 2014 Commonwealth Games, and who has also represented his country at European and World Championships.

Added to a strong team being carried through from the previous season, including Filip Szymanski, Darius Knight and Tom Jarvis, bringing all their experience with them, Ormesby could be the ones to watch.

They start against Fusion, who finished seventh last year and are again spearheaded by Kazeem Adeleke and Lorestan Trumpauskas.

Although they have the youngest average age in this year's Premier Division, Batts TTC from Harlow are also entering the season with a wealth of experience provided by teenagers Helshan Weerasinghe and Alex Ramsden, who both have senior England caps, alongside Michael Tauber and Adam Nutland.

The club recognise it is going to be a tough season but are counting on the home support to maximise their performance.

Batts start with a trip to Cardiff City, who have rapidly climbed through the divisions since establishing

themselves as a club in 2012.

After losing Craig Bryant, who is now playing in the Belgian League, Cardiff have made the new signings of Ashley Robinson and Jonas Sterner to help them to continue their upward momentum. The match could be close as only one point separated four-placed Batts from Cardiff in fifth last season.

Drumchapel are one of Scotland's biggest clubs and will be bringing some big hitters to the league. World Veterans' Champion and Rio Olympian, He Zhiwen, and Scottish aces Craig Howieson and Calum Main, lead their roster.

The club – third last season – are extremely excited about the new format and are hoping their star-studded line-up attracts the crowds and inspires the next generation.

Drumchapel start with a home tie against promoted Halton, who travel north from Widnes with a squad of Kevin Dolder, Joe Pilkington, Richard Lightowler and Aaron Beech.

North Ayrshire, also promoted, will have to wait until weekend 2 for their first match.

Fixtures:

Drumchapel Glasgow v Halton (Drumchapel TTC, 195b Drumry Road East, Glasgow, 3pm)

Ormesby v Fusion (Ormesby TTC, Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough, 3pm)

Cardiff City v Batts (Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, 3pm)

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